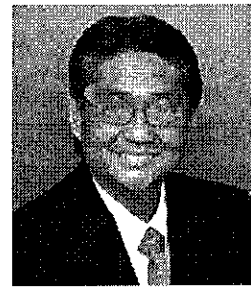




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813



Mark M. Nakashima

December 3, 2009

Legacy Land Commission
Att: Molly Schmidt, Coordinator
DLNR Legacy Land Conservation Program
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Pāo'o Project

Dear Legacy Land Commission:

I am writing to in strong support of the County of Hawai'i's application (assisted by The Trust for Public Land) to the Legacy Land Commission for \$945,000.

The Big Island community strongly supports the protection of this unique 11-acre shoreline property. Both the County's General Plan and in the North Kohala Community Development Plan call for the protection of the undeveloped Kohala coastline north of Kawaihae. Protection of this property is also a high priority (#2) for the County's Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resource Preservation Commission. Protection of this property would connect several miles of protected coastline under the control of the State, the County, and the U.S. Coast Guard, and connect several miles of the Ala Kahakai National Historical Trail.

Purchase of the property will also protect important cultural and natural resources and end protracted litigation. The landowner and certain members of the community have been embroiled in extended proceedings before the Board of Land and Natural Resources that have divided and split the community. The County's purchase of the property will end the dispute, and save important cultural sites, preserve shoreline access for fishing and surfing, and protect the near-shore marine environment just south of the Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District (which boasts over 106 marine species, many of which are species of concern).

Although I cannot be present for the hearing on December 8-9, 2009, I ask for your kind consideration of this application and thank you for your service on the Commission.

Sincerely,

Mark Nakashima
District One

Mark M. Nakashima
First District
repnakashima@capitol.hawaii.gov

Twenty-Fifth Legislature
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